approved in September 2000 to be directly implemented by Government of Assam. Rs. 4.20 crore was released in January-February 2001. The Government of Assam passed on these funds at the disposal of Bodoland Autonomous Council between December 2001 to May 2002. Against this Rs. 4.20 crore, the State Government has reported utilization of Rs. 1.59 crore only. Release of subsequent installment of funds depend upon receipt of utilization certificate and Quarterly Progress Report. State Government has been requested to expeditiously implement the projects and utilize the funds so as to claim subsequent installments.

Disinvestment of Indian Airlines/Air India

2542. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the disinvestment proposal in Indian Airlines/Air India;

(b) by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) the total value of disinvestment; and

(d) the reasons for finalizing purchase of new aircrafts when disinvestment is finally being considered?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The process of disinvestment in both Indian Airlines and Air India was started by the Government in June 1999. But all the bidders gradually withdrew. Thereafer, the process has not been re-started.

(b) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Request from IFCI

2543. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received request from the IFCI to disqualify certain Companies/Groups from bidding;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their request; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE):(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. IFCI has requested for debarring of one of the prospective bidders on account of default in payment obligations. The Ministry's existing Guidelines for Disqualification of Bidders, do not list default with respect to repayment obligations by itself as a reason for disqualification.

Disinvestment process

2544. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India must push reforms, says IMF", which appeared in the Times of India, dated the 28th November, 2002;

(b) whether present reform and disinvestment process are being done at the directive of IMF; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. There does not appear to be such a news-item in the Times of India, dated the 28th November, 2002. However, such a news-item has appeared in the Times of India, dated 28th September, 2002.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The policy on disinvestment has evolved over a decade in response to the changing economic scenario and the emergent need to put national assets to optimal use and to unleash the productive potential inherent in public-sector enterprises.

Post-closure adjustment claim

2545. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Zuari Maroc Pvt. Ltd. the strategic partner of Paradeep Phosphates has filed a post-closure adjustment claim of Rs. 151.55 crores;